I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 24, 2003

Signature: (Tram Anh T. Nguyen)

Docket No.: 101997-0005

(PATENT)

NE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

n re Patent Application of: Andrew K. Benson

Application No.: 09/639,690

Filed: August 16, 2000

For: MULTISPECIES FOOD TESTING AND

CHARACTERIZATION

Group Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: K. Katcheves

TECHCENTER 180/300

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2003 (Paper No. 18), finally rejecting claims 1-6, 8, 9, 14, 17-21 and 23-31, please amend the above-identified U.S. Patent application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 14, 17, 19, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 31 as indicated in the following marked-up copy of the claims entitled "Amendments to the Claims" enclosed herewith.